

The Ellis D. Parker Award

- I. Summary and Purpose of the Award.
 - a. The Parker Award is a DA level award that recognizes excellence by an Army Aviation unit at the Battalion level, the primary warfighting Army Aviation force.
 - b. The Parker Award is divided into four categories based on unit mission: Combat, Combat Support, Combat Service Support and TDA.
- II. Eligible Competitors. The Parker Award is open for competition by all battalion and battalion-like Army Aviation units in the Active and Reserve Components.
- III. Background. Army Chief of Staff, GEN Gordon R. Sullivan, approved the 1993 LTG Ellis D. Parker Award on 29 January 1993. General Sullivan had directed the creation of the Parker Award to honor the top aviation battalion in the Army during LTG Parker's retirement ceremony on 31 January 1992.
- IV. Timeline.
 - a. July/August – DINAH worldwide message sent to all aviation units to inform them of the upcoming Parker Award board and requirements for competition.
 - b. 1 October – Deadline for competing units to forward Action Officer POC information to Aviation Proponency Action Officer
 - c. 1 November – Parker Award Nomination Packets due from all units
 - d. Late November – Primary date for board to convene
 - e. Early December – Alternate date for board to convene
 - f. Mid January – Board results verified, approved and announced
 - g. February – LTG Ellis D. Parker Award Luncheon held at Fort Rucker to honor winners, in conjunction with annual Aviation Conference.
- V. Competition Sequence.
 - a. Each board member will review every unit packet, and grade the submission in each of the areas shown below.
 - b. Once every board member has graded a unit packet, the average score awarded will be determined.
 - c. The packet submission with the highest overall average score wins. There will be one overall winner, who is also the winner of their specific category, and three other category winners.

VI. Battalion Evaluation Packet Rules and Guidelines.

a. Basic Guidelines

- i. Packet must be contained in a binder no larger than 2" (inches) wide.
- ii. Pictures are encouraged; however, loose pictures, negatives, slides or computer disks are not allowed and will be removed before a packet goes before the board
- iii. Information for each mandatory subject area will not exceed two (2) pages in length
- iv. The margins will be set at one inch for all sides
- v. The font should be Bookman Old Style, twelve (12) pitch
- vi. The packet consists of 3 sections:

1. Part I

- a. TAB A – Table of Contents
- b. TAB B – Category of Competition
- c. TAB C – Endorsements
- d. TAB D – Point of Contact Information

2. Part II – Areas of Evaluation (see VI c. below)

3. Part III – Additional Information

b. Endorsements

- i. The endorsement process is **non-negotiable**.
- ii. MACOM commanders will conduct their own board to determine the best aviation units within their commands. Only these units will receive a MACOM-level letter of recommendation. The MACOM will then pass these packets on as finalists for the Fort Rucker board to review. Obviously, this must be done in time to meet the timeline requirements above.
- iii. Units competing for the Parker Award **must** have a MACOM level endorsement.
- iv. Endorsements should be no more than one page.

c. Part II – Mandatory Areas of Evaluation

- i. TAB A – Mission Statement
- ii. TAB B – Commander's Intent
- iii. TAB C – Safety
- iv. TAB D – Leadership
- v. TAB E – Training
- vi. TAB F – Maintenance

d. Enclosures

- i. Part III of the packet, "Additional Information", is the proper place to put all other information that substantiates and demonstrates the unit's level of excellence.
- ii. There is no limit to the amount of additional information, as long as it will fit in a 2" thick binder.
- iii. News media clippings and photographs are encouraged; however, films, videotapes, computer media and any other audio/visual items will not be considered. They will be removed before a packet goes to the board.

VII. Miscellaneous Information.

- a. Classified Information – make every attempt to avoid sending classified information. If required, make arrangements well before hand with Aviation Proponency to ensure the proper transfer, handling, and storage of classified documents.
- b. Aviation Conference – winners will be invited to attend the annual Ellis D. Parker Award luncheon, conducted during the annual Aviation Conference, to receive their award.
- c. Once the USAAVNC Commanding General approves the board results, winning units will be notified. Simultaneously, the Public Affairs Office will be notified, and announcements will be made in the AAAA Journal and the Army Times.

VIII. Point of Contact Information.

- a. Aviation Proponency is the lead agent to coordinate this annual award board.
- b. Call (334) 255-2359/1406 (DSN 558) for all questions and concerns
- c. Additional contact information can be found on our website:
<http://www-rucker.army.mil/ap/default.htm>